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Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1943.

ATHERSTONE:

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

ATHERSTONE,

October, 1944.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE AHERSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure of presenting my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

The district consists of twelve parishes. The population at the 1931 Census was 21,869, distributed as follows:—

WARWICKSHIRE

		Males	Females	Total
Ansley	...	1059	1012	2071
Atherstone	...	3085	3160	6245
Baddesley Ensor	...	843	760	1603
Baxterley	...	215	193	408
Bentley	...	139	118	257
Caldecote	...	84	49	133
Grendon	...	644	612	1256
Hartshill	...	1292	1250	2542
Mancetter	...	353	349	702
Merevale	...	42	60	102
Oldbury	...	37	47	84
Polesworth	...	3407	3059	6466
				21,869

The estimate of resident population at mid-year 1943 is 21,940—and it is on this figure that the vital statistics have been taken.

The vital statistics reckoned on the figure of 21,940 are as follows:—

		Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Total.	Population.	Rate per 1,000
Live Births	...	415	9	424	19.3	
Still Births	...	11	1	12		
Deaths	...	...	...	213	9.7	

For England and Wales the live birth rate was 16.5; and the death rate 12.1 per 1,000 of population.

Twenty-one infants, under the age of one year, died in the district during 1943, giving an infantile mortality rate of 49.5 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths in the district during the year were due to: Heart Disease, 65; other diseases of circulatory system, 6; Cancer, 15; Influenza, 4; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 17; other forms of Tuberculosis, 7; Whooping Cough, 1; Diabetes, 6; Cerebral Haemorrhage, 19; Bronchitis, 10; Pneumonia, 5; other Respiratory Diseases, 1; Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum, 6; Diarrhoea under 2 years, 1; other Digestive Diseases, 8; Kidney Disease, 1; Maternal Causes, 2; Premature Birth, Congenital Debility, etc., 17; Violence, 11; Other Causes, 11.

Male deaths numbered 112 and Female deaths 101.

Male births numbered 223 and Female births 201.

INFANT WELFARE

There are Centres at Atherstone, Hartshill and Dordon. Each Centre is managed by a Committee of ladies, who give their services and time to the work. The County Health Visitor and local Maternity Nurses are present. A medical man attends every other week.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The numbers of notifiable infectious disease cases during 1943 were:

Scarlet Fever, 31; Diphtheria, 1; Erysipelas, 7; Pneumonia, 49.

It may be of interest to note the number of cases of Diphtheria in recent years. In 1923 the number treated in the Isolation Hospital was 71. The following years respectively were 136, 142, 55, 28, 31, 25, 36, 10, 15, 22, 36, 16, 45, 31, 12, 9, 48, 19 and in 1943 there were 3 cases.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

51 cases were treated in the Hospital during 1943, namely, 3 case of Diphtheria and 48 cases of Scarlet Fever.

I am,

Yours truly,

HENRY R. FISHER, M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.)

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

ATHERSTONE.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE AHERSTONE RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my first report on the work of my department during the nine months ended 31st December, 1943.

GENERAL INSPECTION

The general inspection of the various premises within the district for the discovery of conditions causing or likely to cause nuisance has been carried out. The total number of inspections, interviews and re-visits made is 2,826, and the number of defects and nuisances for which notices were given is 1,392.

The following list gives some of the principal nuisances and defects (excluding defects under the Housing Act, 1936) which have been dealt with.

General defects on property	152
Defective closet accommodation	35
Defective and blocked drains	68
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	14
Nuisances from keeping animals	7
Offensive accumulations	5
Conditions at farms and dairies	53

HOUSING

The total number of dwelling-houses inspected was 539 and, including re-visits, inspections numbered 794. This figure includes the houses inspected in a quick preliminary survey which I made for the purposes of the Post War Housing Programme.

From the above survey it was estimated that 400 new houses would be required after the war to replace those which should be dealt with in "slum" clearance, as individual unfit houses and to complete the abatement of overcrowding.

161 houses were found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation. 129 of these were rendered fit, 32 being transferred to 1944 records.

There are no Common Lodging Houses or Houses-Let-In-Lodgings in the district.

The following list is extracted from the Progress Report (Unhealthy Areas and Insanitary Houses) to the 31st March, 1944. This includes to that date action taken under the Housing Act, 1930, and the corresponding provisions in the Housing Act, 1936.

CLEARANCE AREAS:

Number of dwelling-houses demolished in Clearance Areas ...	... 252
Number of persons displaced up to 31st March, 1944 ...	... 952

INSANTARY HOUSES Not Included Above:

Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11 ...	... ... ... ... 14
Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Section 11	5
Number of dwelling-houses closed but not demolished as a result of undertakings (which have not been cancelled) by owners under Section 11 not to use houses for human habitation ...	8
Parts of buildings closed under Section 12 ...	... ... ... 1
Number of persons displaced under first sub-head ...	... ... 52
Number of dwelling-houses made fit as a result of formal notices under Sections 9 to 12 ...	... ... ... ... 41
Number of dwelling-houses made fit as a result of informal notices preliminary to formal procedure under Sections 9 to 12 ...	529

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SUPPLY

There are 165 farms and cowkeepers in the district. Of these 115 produce milk for sale and the following are the numbers of persons registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Producers in the district ...	... ... 115
Producers outside the district ...	... ... 3
Retail purveyors ...	... ... ... 50

367 visits of inspection and of works in progress were carried out in the nine months. Generally speaking the premises, also the animals and milk vessels, are kept in a satisfactory condition. In nine cases it was necessary to caution occupiers regarding cleanliness and limewashing.

The National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme became operative in the district at the end of July. To the end of the year 303 samples of milk were taken from producer-retailers for the purposes of this testing.

There are 33 producer-retailers in the district, and I have carried out many advisory visits on clean milk production at their premises. The results of the first and last samples taken in the year from each producer-retailer are grouped in the categories hereunder. (Category A indicates milk of good keeping quality; B of moderate keeping quality and C of poor keeping quality).

	Category A.	Category B.	Category C.	Total
First samples for test ...	14	9	10	33
Last samples for test ...	27	6	—	33

It will be seen that there was considerable improvement in keeping quality. The principal causes of failure to produce milk of good keeping quality were found to be insufficient cleansing and sterilisation of milk utensils and milking machines.

23 other milk samples were taken, 13 being submitted to the Reductase Test and ten to biological examination. One of these latter was found to contain tubercle bacilli. In such cases the County Council are informed and the County Veterinary Inspector takes such measures as are necessary to find the source of the infection.

The following list gives the improvements, structural alterations and repairs carried out at farms in the district for the nine months.

FARM NO. 1:

- Main water laid on.
- New dairy constructed.
- New wash-house constructed.
- New store constructed.
- Complete new drainage system provided to all buildings.
- Bacterial sewage purification installation constructed.

FARM NO. 2:

- New cowshed constructed.

FARM NO. 3:

- New dairy constructed.

FARM NO. 4:

Two cowsheds converted to one.
 All cowshed walls cement rendered.
 Dairy walls cement rendered.
 Additional means ventilation provided to cowshed.

FARM NO. 5:

Two cowshed floors concreted.
 Frontage to cowsheds concreted.
 Dairy floor concreted.

FARM NO. 6:

Cowshed reconstructed to double former size.
 New dairy constructed.

FARM NO. 7:

Bacterial sewage purification installation constructed.

FARM NO. 8:

Main water laid on.

FARM NO. 9:

New drainage system provided.
 Two pails converted to water closets.
 Septic tank and percolating bed repaired.

FARM NO. 10:

Dairy totally reconstructed.

FARM NO. 11:

Main water laid on.

FARM NO. 12:

Bacterial sewage purification installation constructed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The slaughter of animals for food for this district is carried out at the Government Abattoir at Nuneaton. The carcases and offals are inspected there before allocation.

There were 997 pigs killed for private consumption in the district in the latter months of the year. Of these, as time permitted, I inspected 323. Incidence of diseased conditions in these was slight, owing evidently to care in feeding, segregation in general and cleanliness. In only seven instances was evidence of tuberculosis present and in no case was it advanced or generalised. The disposal of infected organs was directed upon. In only one case was a carcase and all organs found to be unfit for food - this a case of septicaemia.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations are complied with by the butchers; also grocers and others are satisfactorily dealing with the storage of hams and bacon.

Premises where food is stored or prepared are inspected. 432 visits were paid to such premises in the nine months. There are 92 registered premises for the preparation of or manufacture of preserved food, etc.

The following table shows the articles of food which were inspected at the premises of grocers, greengrocers, butchers, etc., and were found to be unfit for human consumption. The same were destroyed.

Number	Details	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
356	Eggs (Rotten and broken)		1	18
215	Tins Meat, Milk, Fruit, Fish, Soups, and Vegetables. (Blown, holed, etc.)	2	1	25
105	Jars Jam (Broken jars)	1	1	8
76	1 lb. Malt Loaves (Stale)		2	20
105	Oranges (Rotten)		1	—
—	Bacon (Decomposition)	1	3	12
—	Cheese (Stale)			4
—	Sugar (Damaged in transit)*	12	2	21
—	Tea (Damaged in transit) *		1	8
—	Butchers' Meat (Bone Taint, Decomposition)	1	—	23
—	Sausages (Decomposition)		2	3
—	Fish (Decomposition)		2	10
	(Items marked “*” were salvaged)			
		21	1	12

FACTORIES

There are 110 factories on the Registers. Of these 25 are bakeries.

These premises are visited at intervals as shown by the table below.

There are thirty-three outworkers employed by the hat manufacturers in the district.

The sanitary condition of factories has been well maintained and only two complaints have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Details	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories .. .	58	2	—
Factories without mechanical power .. .	8	—	—
		Defects Found	Defects Remedied
Want of cleanliness	2	2
Want of ventilation	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation—	..		
Unsuitable or defective	8	8
Not separate for sexes	—	—
Insufficient	—	—
Total	10	10

WATER SAMPLES

Three water samples were taken in connection with Rivers Pollution and two samples from wells used for domestic purposes.

By the construction of bacterial sewage purification installations the river pollution was prevented. One of the domestic well waters was found to be unfit and main water having since been laid on, the well is now disused.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF INSPECTIONS.
FOR THE NINE MONTHS 1ST APRIL, 1943, TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1943.
COMPILED BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Nature of Inspections Made	Number	Number of Defects for which notices were served		Result of Service of Notices		
		Statutory	Informal	Complied with	Remaining in hand	Prosecutions Insti- tuted
1. Dwelling-houses (General inspections)	291	15	137	111	41	—
2. Dwelling-houses (Housing Acts)	503	749	252	652	349	—
3. Courts, Yards and Passages	11	—	5	5	—	—
4. Defective W.C.s.	60	—	27	27	13	—
5. Drainage	84	3	65	55	—	—
6. Defective Privy-Middens	6	—	3	3	—	—
7. " Pail Closets	4	—	5	5	1	—
8. " Ashpits	5	—	5	4	5	—
9. " Ashbins	16	6	21	22	—	—
10. Keeping of Animals	16	—	7	7	—	—
11. Offensive Accumulations	10	—	5	5	—	—
12. Farms and Dairies	367	9	44	27	26	—
13. Factories	24	—	8	8	—	—
14. Bakehouses	42	—	2	2	—	—
15. Smoke Observations	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Slaughter-Houses	16	—	—	—	—	—
17. Meat Inspection	323	—	—	—	—	—
18. Other Food Inspections	91	—	—	—	—	—
19. Butchers Shops	73	—	—	—	—	—
20. Fish Shops	33	—	—	—	—	—
21. Other Food Premises	97	—	—	—	—	—
22. Milk Samples	326	5	—	—	—	—
23. Water Samples	5	—	—	—	—	—
24. Shops (Shops Acts)	—	5	—	—	—	—
25. Canal Boats	—	5	—	—	—	—
26. Houses Let In Lodgings	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Rats and Mice Destruction	73	—	—	14	14	—
29. Interviews	328	—	—	10	9	1
30. Miscellaneous	17	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2,826	782	610	956	436	—

WORKS DONE AND NUISANCES ABATED DURING THE
NINE MONTHS, 1st APRIL to 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

HOUSING

EXTERNAL

Walls—

Taken down and re-built	...	...	...	...	...	1
Raked and re-pointed or rendered	...	...	...	...	...	15
Door sills repaired or new fixed	...	...	...	...	...	21
Horizontal damp-proof courses fixed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Open areas constructed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sub-floor ventilation provided or increased	...	...	...	...	...	4

Roofs—

Stripped and re-lasted or re-tiled	...	...	...	...	...	16
Repaired and made sound and weather-proof	...	...	...	...	...	36
Torched	...	...	...	...	...	5
Skylights repaired	10

Guttering—

Repaired and/or new provided and fixed	43
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Downspouts

Repaired and/or new provided and fixed	26
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Chimney stacks

Wholly or in part taken down and re-built	18
Raked and re-pointed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Pots provided and fixed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Chimneys swept	12

Yards, Courts and Passages—

Taken up and re-laid or concreted	9
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Water Supply

Laid on into houses	14
Standpipes removed	4
Wells disused	3
New pumps provided to wells	2

Drainage—

New lengths drain and/or drainage systems provided ...	...	14
Defective drains re-laid ...	...	12
New inspection chambers constructed ...	...	5
Septic tanks repaired ...	...	1
Defective inspection chamber covers replaced ...	...	7
Cesspools put into dis-use and filled in ...	...	5
New cesspools constructed ...	...	1
Ventilation shafts repaired ...	...	2
New gullies provided ...	...	21
Obstructed drains released ...	...	16

Closet Accommodation—

Conversions to W.C.'s ...	...	6
New W.C. compartments built ...	...	2
New W.C. Pedestals fixed ...	...	17
W.C. cisterns repaired and/or new provided ...	...	15
Water supply laid on to W.C.'s ...	...	14
Miscellaneous repairs to closet compartments ...	...	26

Washing Accommodation—

Wash-house structures repaired ...	...	2
New wash-houses built ...	...	1
Dilapidated coppers repaired ...	...	23
New set pots fixed	4
Fireboxes replaced or repaired	4

Fuel Stores—

Structures repaired	1
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Ashes Accommodation—

New Ashbins provided	35
Ashpits put into dis-use	3

INTERNAL

Walls—

Totally or in part replastered	81
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Ceilings—

Totally or in part replastered	101
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Windows—

New additional provided ...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective frames repaired or replaced ...	...	...	...	...	8
Windows re-coded ...	...	...	...	...	3

Doors—

Repaired, replaced and/or weather-boards fixed 53

Floors—

Boarded floors replaced and/or repaired 28

Quarry floors re-laid 18

Staircases—

Woodwork repaired 14

Natural lighting provision made 12

New handrails provided and fixed 2

Fireranges and grates—

Repaired and/or new fixed 39

Sinks—

New sinks provided and fixed 6

New wastes fitted or existing repaired 10

Bedrooms—

Additional provided 2

Food Storage Accommodation -

Improved 1

FARMS AND DAIRIES

Water laid on to farms 3

New cowsheds constructed 2

New dairies constructed 3

Cowshed walls rendered 1

Dairy walls rendered 1

Additional ventilation to cowsheds 1

Cowshed floors concreted 2

Causeways to cowsheds concreted 1

Dairy floors concreted 2

Cowsbeds extended and enlarged 1

Pails converted to W.C.'s 2

Septic tanks and percolating beds repaired 1

Dairies totally re-constructed 1

Two cowsheds converted to one 1

Bacterial sewage purification installations constructed 3

New wash-houses constructed 1

New stores constructed 1

New drainage systems constructed 2

MISCELLANEOUS

Rat infested premises cleared 14

Premises rat-proofed 2

Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed 2

Offensive accumulations removed 5

Keeping of animals nuisances abated 7

Food preparing premises cleansed 1

Factories—

W.C.'s provided with more natural light	...	...	...	2
Provided with intervening ventilated space	...	...	...	2
Sanitary conveniences cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	2
Other miscellaneous repairs to sanitary accommodation	...			2
Various	...	...	...	11
Verminous premises disinfested	...	...	...	9
Dirty houses cleansed	...	...	...	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

All houses where infectious diseases were notified were disinfected and the bedding, clothing, etc., passed through the steam disinfecter.

The homes of infectious tuberculous persons are similarly treated when a patient dies or is removed to sanatorium, etc.

Free supply of disinfectant for prophylactic measures in houses where infectious disease exists, is carried on from six premises in various parts of the district.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are three premises in the district where the business of Rag and Bone dealing is carried on.

These premises have been frequently visited and cautions were necessary in regard to conditions in two instances.

CANAL BOATS

Occasional visits have been made to the docks and wharves. Five boats were inspected. None of these were carrying offensive cargo, nor was any infectious disease met with.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The restriction on the emission of dense smoke from factory chimneys, which had been relaxed for industrial purposes, was again introduced in the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

SYDNEY B. ACTON,

M.R.San.I., C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

